

12. Pileus more or less bluish, not effused. *T. caesius* (Schrad.) Murrill
 Pileus not bluish, effused-reflexed. *T. semipileatus* (Peck) Murrill
13. Surface pelliculose, more or less tinged with gray. *T. chioneus* (Fr.) Karst.
 Surface white, without a pellicle. 14
14. Pileus about 2 mm. thick. *T. Bartholomaei* (Peck) Murrill
 Pileus much thicker. 15
15. Edges of tubes obtuse, entire. *T. anceps* (Peck) Murrill
 Edges of tubes very thin, lacerate. *T. lacteus* (Fr.) Murrill

H. THE SPECIES OF TRAMETES

1. Context punky, soft. 2
 Context corky, rather firm. *T. subnivosa* Murrill
2. Tubes small, 4 to a mm.; found on *Robinia*. *T. robiniophila* Murrill
 Tubes large, 2 to a mm.; found on *Salix*. *T. suaveolens* (L.) Fr.

I. THE SPECIES OF RIGIDOPORUS

Pileus thin, rigid, multizonate, reddish; tubes rather slender, edges thin.
T. surinamensis (Miq.) Murrill

J. THE SPECIES OF PORONIDULUS

Pileus thin, conchate, white, with pale-reddish zones; found on elm branches.
T. conchifer (Schw.) Murrill

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

SHORTER NOTES

THE NAME CHARA. —The origin of the modern application of the name *Chara* has been much disputed, and it may not be superfluous to call attention to one opinion, which seems to be the most plausible, and to connect with it the name of the author who appears to have introduced the word into literature, although he attained his eminence in other fields. Julius Caesar in the 48th chapter of the 3d book of his "De Bello Civile" says: Est etiam genus radices inventum ab iis, qui fuerant in vallibus, quod appellatur *Chara*, quod admixtum lacte multum inopiam levabat. Id ad similitudinem panis efficiebant.

This may be roughly translated: There is also a kind of root, found by those who had been in the valleys, which is called *Chara*, and this when mixed with milk greatly lessened the feeling of hunger. They make it into the likeness of bread.

No person can possibly advance the idea that the *Chara* of modern botany could be made into bread, with or without the use of milk. This merely proves that the name was in use in

Italy nearly 2,000 years ago; and other evidence seems to connect it with some umbelliferous plant, similar to *Carum Carui*, the caraway, a name probably derived from the same source. The rough resemblance of a *Chara* and an umbellifer is very considerable, and the history of the word would seem to be that it arose as a local name for an Italian flowering plant, was in use in this sense for many centuries, and passed into its present acceptance at the moment when it acquired botanical significance.

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NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

A RED-FRUITED HUCKLEBERRY.—When visiting the botanically well-known Bergen Swamp in Genesee County, N. Y., in August, 1907, examples of *Gaylussacia resinosa* (Ait.) T. & G. with red or wine-colored fruit were found. The berries were more juicy than in the common form, about like those of *Vaccinium vacillans* as compared in this quality with the average fruit of *G. resinosa*. The usual form with black fruit, as well as *G. dumosa* (Andr.) T. & G., was also well represented there. The oval or oblong leaves of these red-fruited shrubs were somewhat smaller than is commonly the case, 2–3 cm. × 1–1.5 cm., frequently considerably tinged with red, and more inclined to an acute or acutish apex. The leaves of the black-fruited form from the locality were quite obtuse. The shrubs were in those parts of the swamp called “open,” in which there are clumps or small areas of bushes of various kinds, often with one or more trees of stunted white pine or white cedar growing with them. Here the ground flora was of sphagna and other peat-loving mosses and of such herbaceous plants as frequent habitats of this character. The larger part of the open swamp has a marly soil, loosely covered with grasses and sedges, and usually with a thin sheet of water above the marl even in the dry season. The water is clear, and in places had a slow movement in the direction of its outlet to Black Creek. The spots occupied by bushes were raised a little above the general level, being gradually converted into high-moor. In such an environment was a clump, 2 or 3 meters across, of this red-fruited huckleberry, well exposed to the full light and heat of the sun.

White-fruited forms of *G. resinosa* are mentioned in our manuals of botany, and the red may also have been detected before. They are analogous to cases more often occurring in the common blueberries. I have several times come upon *Vaccinium vacillans*, with white or pinkish fruit, in the dune region of northern Indiana. Sometimes the bushes will almost or quite exclusively occupy an area of one or two square rods, producing berries of these abnormal colors which can be gathered by the quart.

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REVIEWS

Curtis's Nature and Development of Plants*

In this work the author has "had in mind a purpose to make familiar our common plants," this knowledge being considered fundamental in any botanical work. The volume is not offered as a text, but as a reader to accompany lectures and laboratory work. Pedagogically the object is to "quicken the reasoning faculty, and create a desire for a further examination of the subject."

The Introduction discusses, (1) The Nature of the Plant (as made up of cells); (2) The Nature of the Living Substance of the Plant. The four sections of Part I, Nature of Plants, treat, in order, of the leaf, the root, the stem, and the flower, fruit, and seedling. Part II, The Development of Plants, comprises six sections, dealing with, Classification of Plants, Thallophyta, Bryophyta, Pteridophyta, Spermatophyta, Angiospermae (Spermatophyta concluded). Two hundred and forty-four pages are devoted to Part II, and ninety-four to Part I.

In conformity with the aim, familiarity with common plants, physiology is given less prominence than structure and classification. There are no illustrations of physiological experiments. On reading through the chapters, one's attention is arrested by the use of pistil and carpel as synonymous (p. 102); of antheridial cell for the more usual term generative cell (p. 108); and

*Curtis, Carlton C. Nature and Development of Plants. Pp. vii + 471. *f.* 1-342. Henry Holt & Co., New York. 1907.